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Success

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Success

Mike Vanden Bosch

Success is measured by a Lord
who washed his followers' feet.
He sets the standards high as heaven
for all who would compete.

A widow giving her last cent
gives more than millionaires,
and cooling one dry throat outdoes
ten dozen doctrinaires.

A derelict, confessing sin
in awkward, croaking caws
is purer than a gloating saint
who's kept a thousand laws.

A man who helps a stranger up
whom priests have hastened past
will pass the priest to heaven's door
in serving the outcast.

Success is measured by a gauge
unknown to stately boards,
not trumpeted to squealing crowds
or crowned by earthly lords.

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